

## SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS LIMIT PUNISHES SENIOR CITIZENS

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today I want to talk about Meredith T. Jones. She is one of 48,000 Georgians who has found out that being 65 is not as old as she thought it was. She has great health, she has great energy and enthusiasm, particularly with the kids out of the house. So she wants to go to work.

Miss Jones gets a job, feeling good about it, and then comes the IRS. And she has found, like so many other senior citizens, that because she is over 65 that she will lose \$1 in Social Security benefits for every \$3 she earns.

Yet, if she works, she is healthier, she is happier, she is more independent. But the IRS does not recognize that and wants to penalize Miss Jones and 48,000 other Georgia seniors because they are working.

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The Social Security earnings limitation is unfair. It hurts seniors. Republicans have a plan to restore fairness and provide relief for seniors so that they can earn a good living and enjoy productive retirement years without being penalized by the IRS. Mr. Speaker, we need to pass the Social Security earnings limitation.

## PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, in just 25 years the number of seniors in California will nearly double, from 3.4 million to 6.4 million, but the limited prescription drug benefit that the Republicans have proposed would leave nearly half of those seniors behind.

Low-income drug benefit plans include seniors who are considered middle class if they earn between \$15,000 and \$50,000 a year. These plans ignore the fact that due to the high costs of prescription drugs, many seniors must choose between buying food and buying medicine. That is not right.

Mr. Speaker, in the case of Ivera and Roy Cobb, residents of my district, paying for medications that they both need is absolutely impossible. Roy goes without some of his prescription drugs so that Ivera can have her medications.

The Republican leadership must stop dragging its feet and must enact a meaningful prescription drug benefit that will eliminate price discrimination against our seniors.

## OUTRAGE OVER THE SHOOTING AND VERDICT IN THE CASE OF AMADOU DIALLO

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my outrage over the shooting and subsequent verdict in the case of Amadou Diallo, Mr. Diallo, an innocent young African immigrant who came to the United States aspiring for a better life. Plainclothes officers who belong to an overaggressive street crime unit were supposed to be looking for an armed rapist.

Mr. Speaker, was that rapist Amadou Diallo? No. He was simply a black man going home after a long day's work. The officers approached Amadou, and what happened is not completely clear. But in the end, the unarmed young man's body lay in front of his vestibule caught in a hailstorm of 41 bullets.

The reason, the police said, they thought that a wallet was a gun; although he was left-handed, and the wallet was not anywhere near the left hand. A senseless death. But what is even more disturbing was the jury's verdict, which acquitted all the officers of all charges, ranging from second-degree murder to negligent homicide.

Mr. Speaker, let me say we must call upon the Justice Department to investigate this case so that the deepening fear between minorities and the police who are supposed to protect them will end.

## CITIZENS' FREEDOM TO WORK ACT

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on the floor today we will be considering the Senior Citizens' Freedom to Work Act. It allows seniors to work, continue to work without affecting their Social Security.

It seems hard to believe that our tax law would actually punish people for working. I am pleased that my colleagues on the Republican side after 6 years have finally decided to help seniors who want to continue working. This is the first we have had a clean vote on this issue.

These are the very same seniors, the ones who cannot afford their medication or their prescription because our Medicare system does not cover it. I am glad that we are actually going to let them now work and earn that money so they can pay for their prescriptions, because this Congress has not passed a bill on that.

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that approximately 45 percent of seniors have no prescription benefit. These are the seniors who choose every month between buying food, paying their bills, or buying their medication. Some have

to buy their medication but skip days just to make it longer.

I am disappointed that this Congress has not moved aggressively on prescription medication for seniors. But at least by passing this bill, we will let them continue to work so they can afford their medication.

## FEDERAL INTERVENTION REGARDING THE CASE OF AMADOU DIALLO

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as crime has increased, police have been given freer and freer rein. It is time to reign them in. That is the lesson of the New York City Diallo case. It is difficult to fault a racially integrated jury, but they have written only the first chapter. There are at least three more chapters to be written before we know who is at fault.

Mr. Speaker, Chapter Number 2 must be written by the Justice Department. This is a classic case for Federal intervention, a horrendous police response resulting in the death of an innocent resident.

There are, of course, no appeals in the criminal process. This case calls for a rapid response from the Justice Department. A civil rights investigation, as provided by law, is a vital check in a Federal system.

Chapter 3 in this case must be written with a civil court suit. Even if a police attack is deemed not criminal, no civil society would condone such a response.

Finally, there is a fourth chapter; and we must write that chapter. It should be entitled "Do not send poorly trained police into our communities to protect us. They are a menace."

## VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS OF MR. DIALLO

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, there is an open wound in New York this morning. That wound was caused by a decision that sends a message that the police can fire 41 bullets at an unarmed man of color as he enters his own home.

A healing of this wound could only happen if the Justice Department conducts a thorough investigation of the violation of Mr. Diallo's civil rights.

In addition, they must relentlessly evaluate and find just solutions to the patterns and practices of the New York City Police Department since, clearly, the city's leadership and its mayor and police chief find the police conduct to be okay.

If New York City is to heal, the message must be said that all human life,